

## **Medicare Rx Update: September 2, 2005**

### **Retirees... and the New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage**

With the start of the initial enrollment period for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit rapidly approaching, employer and union sponsors will be proactively communicating with retirees, active employees, spouses and dependents about their employment-based prescription drug coverage and how it will work with the new Medicare prescription drug coverage. Communicating now, and repeating that communication throughout the fall, will reassure Medicare-eligible employees and retirees that in most cases their decision will be easy, because in most cases, the best choice will be to keep their employment-based prescription drug coverage.

#### **... Be ready for questions about retiree prescription drug coverage**

CMS has released a new document, entitled "Frequently Asked Questions about Retiree Prescription Drug Coverage and the New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage." This document is intended to help people with Medicare who also has retiree drug coverage from an employer or union understand their options and make informed choices. This publication will be very useful for pharmacists and retirees in understanding the upcoming decisions retirees will have to make regarding the new benefit.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/EmplUnionPlanSponsorInfo/Downloads/11162retireefactweb.pdf>